

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replace the claims with the following rewritten listing:

1. (Original) Chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer, wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is at least 105000 g/mol (Mn).
2. (Original) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is at least 150000 g/mol (Mn).
3. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 1000000 g/mol (Mn).
4. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 500000 g/mol (Mn).
5. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 350000 g/mol (Mn).
6. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 5, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 250000 g/mol (Mn).
7. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 6, wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is less than 2000000 g/mol (Mn).

8. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 7, wherein the polydispersity of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 1 to 5.
9. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, wherein the polydispersity of said at least one biodegradable polymer is within the range of 1 to 2.5.
10. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 9, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 25% of the chewing gum polymers, ~~preferably at least 50% of the chewing gum polymers.~~
11. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 10, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 25%, ~~preferably at least 90% of the chewing gum polymers.~~
12. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 10, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprises at least 80%, ~~preferably at least 95% of the chewing gum polymers.~~
13. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 1 to 12, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.
14. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-13, wherein said chewing gum ~~ingredients~~ comprises flavoring agents.
15. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-14, wherein said flavoring agents comprises natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids or and other substances capable of affecting the taste profile.

16. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 14 ~~1-15~~, wherein
said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt%, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

17. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 14 ~~1-16~~, wherein
said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt%, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum

18. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 14 ~~1-17~~, wherein said flavoring agent comprises water soluble ingredients.

19. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-18~~, wherein said ~~water-soluble~~ flavoring agent comprises acids.

20. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 14 ~~1-19~~, wherein said flavor comprises water insoluble ingredients.

21. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-20~~, wherein said chewing gum ~~ingredients~~ comprises sweeteners.

22. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-21~~, wherein said sweetener comprises bulk sweeteners

23. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-22~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 20 to about 80% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

24. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 21-23, wherein said sweetener comprises high intensity sweeteners.

25. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-24, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, sterioside, alone or in combination

26. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 24 1-25, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0.05 to about 0.5% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

27. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-26, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.

28. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-27, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, - ~~such as~~ stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, ~~and~~ linoleic acids or mixtures thereof.

29. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 27 1-28, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 0 to about 12% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

30. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-29, wherein said chewing gum ~~ingredients~~ comprises active ingredients.

31. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-30, wherein said active ingredients ~~being~~ are selected from the group consisting of: Acetaminophen, ~~Acetylsalicylsyre~~ Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Oxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, ~~Pseudoefedrin~~, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecoxib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin, Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Granisetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorpheniramin, Difenhydramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon. Chloride, Benzeth. Chloride, Cetylpyrid. Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetrizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rizatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminium salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B, Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetamid, Melatonin, Phenobarbital, Caffeine, Benzodiazepiner, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Buflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamin, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramin, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, Progesterone, Testosterone, Vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminiumaminoacetat, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesiumoxide, Nizatide and/or Ratinidine or derivatives and mixtures thereof.

32. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-31, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers

33. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-32, wherein the at least one biodegradable ~~polymer polyester copolymer~~ obtained by the polymerization of one or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic esters are selected from the groups consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and ~~or~~ mixtures thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-33, wherein lactone monomers are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, and β -propiolactone. ~~It also includes ϵ -caprolactones, δ -valerolactones, γ -butyrolactones, or β -propiolactones that have been~~ and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactone monomers are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atoms along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

35. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 33 1-34, wherein the carbonate monomer is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4,6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, ~~and~~ 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

36. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 33 ~~1-35~~, wherein cyclic ester polymers and their copolymers resulting from the polymerization of cyclic ester monomers are selected from the group consisting of ~~include, but are not limited to:~~ poly (L-lactide) ; poly (D-lactide) ; poly (D, L-lactide) ; poly (mesolactide) ; poly (glycolide) ; poly (trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (L lactide-co-D, L-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (L-lactide co-glycolide) ; poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (L-lactide co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide) ; poly (D, L lactide-co-glycolide) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (D, L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (meso-lactide-co glycolide) ; poly (meso-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (meso lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone) ; poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate) ; poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.

37. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-36~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

38. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-37~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum, ~~more typically about 10 to about 40% by weight of the chewing gum.~~

39. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-38~~, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.

40. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-39~~, where the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.

41. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~1-40~~, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.

42. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-41, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating, ~~and a~~ sugarless coating, and a combination thereof.

43. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 41 1-42, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol and isomalt.

44. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 40 1-43, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.

45. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-44, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatine, shellac, gum arabic, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.

46. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 40 1-45, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavouring agent, a colouring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar, an acid and an agent capable of accelerating the after-chewing degradation of the degradable polymer.

47. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 40 1-46, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

48. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-47, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

49. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum according to ~~any of claims~~ claim 1-48, wherein said chewing gum comprises

at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum,

at least one biodegradable plasticizer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and

at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the group consisting ~~groups~~ of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.

50. (Original) Method of increasing the robustness of chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer by increasing the molecular weight of the at least one biodegradable polymer.

51. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50, ~~whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 105000 g/mol (Mn).

52. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to claim 50 ~~or 51, whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 150000 g/mol (Mn).

53. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 50-52, whereby the molecular weight of said biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be at least 250000 g/mol (Mn).

54. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 50 -53, ~~whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 500000 g/mol (Mn).

55. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 50 -52, ~~whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 350000 g/mol (Mn).

56. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 50 -55, ~~whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted within the range of 105000 g/mol (Mn) to 250000 g/mol (Mn).

57. (Currently Amended) Method of increasing the robustness according to ~~any of the claims~~ claim 50 -56, ~~whereby~~ wherein the molecular weight of said at least one biodegradable polymer is adjusted to be less than 2000000 g/mol (Mn).

58. (Canceled)